

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, July 3. 1712.

I Think I cannot be suspected of Arguing for our joining with *France*, and Quarrelling with the Confederates in what I said in my last; but as these are Days when Men are far from being backward in their Censures, whether *with or without Reason*; I shall therefore freely declare myself; I openly profess my Opinion to be as her Majesty express'd it in her late Speech, That *the Interest of the States General is Inseparable from our own*: A War with *Holland* at this Time, I should esteem no otherwise than of a Man cutting off his Left-Hand with his Right: *Britain and Holland* are the Life and Soul of the Protestant Interest, the Magazine and Fountain of Protestant Power; if *they fall out*, 'tis like two Brothers drawing their Swords upon one another, where, if they are both kill'd, there's an End of the whole Family——No Man that has any Sense of the Protestant Cause in the World, or any Concern for the Church of God, or the Civil Liberty of *Europe*, can ever desire to see these two Nations fall out, nay, it must be a Judgment upon both, whenever such a Case happen.

I am therefore not telling you what I desire to see; *God forbid any honest Man should desire it*, but what will necessarily come upon us, if both

both Sides do not alter their Conduct, and I say *both Sides*, for I would speak plain; and I do think I may affirm, that not a *Jacobite French Peace*, which some People would have if they could, tends more directly to a War with the *Dutch*, than THAT PRINCIPLE, which some are so pleas'd with the *View* of, of the *Dutch* pushing the VVar on, and the Emperor Recovering the *Spanish Monarchy* without US: Let the Consequences of both be thorowly weigh'd, let People impartially Examin what our Circumstances would be, if the Emperor and the *Dutch* should obtain that great Point of the *Spanish Monarchy* without us, and let them tell me, what can our Ministry be suppos'd to say for themselves, to stand at Gaze with the Finger in the Mouth, and let it come to that.

I am speaking without Respect to Persons or Parties, taking Things as they now stand; it is, as I said before, nothing to the Question, *How they come to stand so?* But we must be content to consider them as they *do now stand*: Here happens to be two differing and contrary Resolutions in the two Nations; the *British Court* resolve to put an End to the VVar, the Nation is Enflam'd and Divided, Trade decay'd, Taxes multiplied, the Treasure exhausted, we want Respite to Recover ourselves, and the Queen will have an *End put to the War* — The Confederates do not like the Conditions, and especially the EMPEROR, who has swallow'd the

Spanish Monarchy in Expectation, and is very loth to part with it, and they resolve to carry on the VVar; *these are direct Contraries*.

Now the Question before us seems to lie, whether can we stand Neuter, *Yea or No?* This is a Question has not yet been Debated, and is a very nice Case to consider of — I must own, my Opinion is in the Negative, *viz.* That I do not think it is Practicable, that we can *hold the Scale* and be Neuter; the Case is difficult, and I dare say can never be done; nay, the very Confederates will not let us do it; and the Old *High-Flying* Project, of fighting all with Foreign Troops, has been the only Thing that has disabled us from it.

There are many Instances in our own Memory, of such a Case as Ours is, but I remember not any one that remain'd Neuter, who had been stated *with Respect to others*, as we are: The Case of the Elector of Saxony and the Swedes, in the Wars of Germany, is one Remarkable Instance of this: The Saxon left the Swedes, and made his Peace with the Emperor; the Swedes, who every one thought Ruin'd by it, not only carried on the War against the Emperor without him, but declar'd against the Saxons also, which forc'd the Saxons, tho' Protestants, to join with the Emperor, tho' Papist, to prevent the Swedes over-running all Germany; and none blam'd the Saxons for the latter, tho' none justify'd the Emperor neither, in his War against the Protestants.

God

God forbid we should come to join with *France* against the *Dutch*— But God forbid also, the *Dutch* and the Emperor should push us to the Necessity of it, as it would be an odious Alliance to all the People of this Nation, yet there may, as there has been Circumstances, in which it may be, as it has been, necessary; God knows, I speak it not to bring it to pass, but to warn against bringing on that Necessity: I'll put a fair Example— Were all true that the People now talk of, “Of the Treatment of our Generals; Of a *Dutch* Squadron fitted out to Intercept our going to *Dunkirk*, and of the Imperial Generals Insulting the *English*, and telling him he should BEGONE, &c. Were it true which they boast also, “That the Confederates will not beat the *French* and then Land upon us;” What would any one say to this? And what would our People do? Would these Things tend to a Rupture, or no? But God be praised, these forged Stories die as fast as they are made, and Things are not come to that yet.

But here's a Question put very Home as some think; Pray, why, if we think fit to draw out of the War, and make a Peace, Why should we hinder the Emperor and the *Dutch*? Why may not they fight and beat and Conquer *France* too, if they can? My Answer is plain, we must not let them, for the same Reason that we must not let *France* beat or Conquer them, or in short, the same Reason which made us begin

this War, and made it a just War, is a good Reason for it, viz. To prevent Exorbitant Power, the Ballance of *Europe* would be broke by it, and we be in as much Danger of being Ruin'd then, as before; Exorbitant Power is the Thing we fight against; it is not against the *French* as a Nation, but against the *French* as Exorbitantly Great; that we make War: If the *Dutch* or Emperor become Exorbitantly Great, we must fight against them; and it is not so long since the Protestants accepted the Aid of the Kings of *France*, against the Emperor's Exorbitant Greatness—As we have done since of the Emperors of *Germany*, against the *French* Greatness: This is what we call the Ballance of Power, viz. That no Exorbitant Greatness should be suffer'd in one Prince or another, in *Europe*— And whoever will Erect an Exorbitant Greatness must be oppos'd, let it be who it will.

These Things, I foresee, will be the sad Consequences of the Emperor and the *Dutch* carrying on the War without us; and therefore I think all imaginable Endeavours should be made use of, to prevent it, as well in persuading *France* to grant the Demands of the *Dutch*, as to bring in the *Dutch* to accept of Reasonable Conditions from *France*— If the Conditions the Queen has publish'd, are not acceptable, they ought to be consider'd, and Reason given for other Demands; if the Conditions the Confederates Demand, are Extravagant, they ought

ought to moderate these Demands, otherwise, as we may be charg'd with the making a Separate Peace, so they may be charg'd with making a Separate War, which is equally Mischievous.

Perhaps I may not be heard in this, with the same Moderation and Impartiality with which I write it; but let that be as pleases him who governs all Things; I shall never cease while I write, to lay before you the Rocks, which I think you are in danger of splitting upon, if after that you will run on, be the Error your own.

It will be to no purpose, to say a Tory High-Flying Party brought these Things upon us; what the *High-Flying* Party have done, I regret as much as any of you, but

for God-sake let us not precipitate ourselves into certain Misery upon an uncertain Supposition that, this may Retrieve us from the *High-Flying* Influence; too many desperate Remedies have been try'd already, and one part of the Nation Ruin'd in the Attempt; It is a terrible Operation we are now upon, and the whole Protestant Interest may be lost in the Experiment; let those who rejoyce in the Confederates pushing on the War without us, remember and consider it, that therein, *they are the Men*, and they only, that are for effectually bringing on a War with the *Dutch*; for if the Confederates go on with the War without us, a Neutrality for *Britain* is impossible.

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